

Thurs 3-10-15 Daily Breeze

Sheriff cuts use of in-car computers

Policy follows death of San Fernando Valley bicyclist hit by deputy using device

By Brenda Gazzar

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In an effort to reduce distracted driving, Los Angeles County sheriff's officials have implemented a new policy that significantly curbs the use of in-car computers, authorities said.

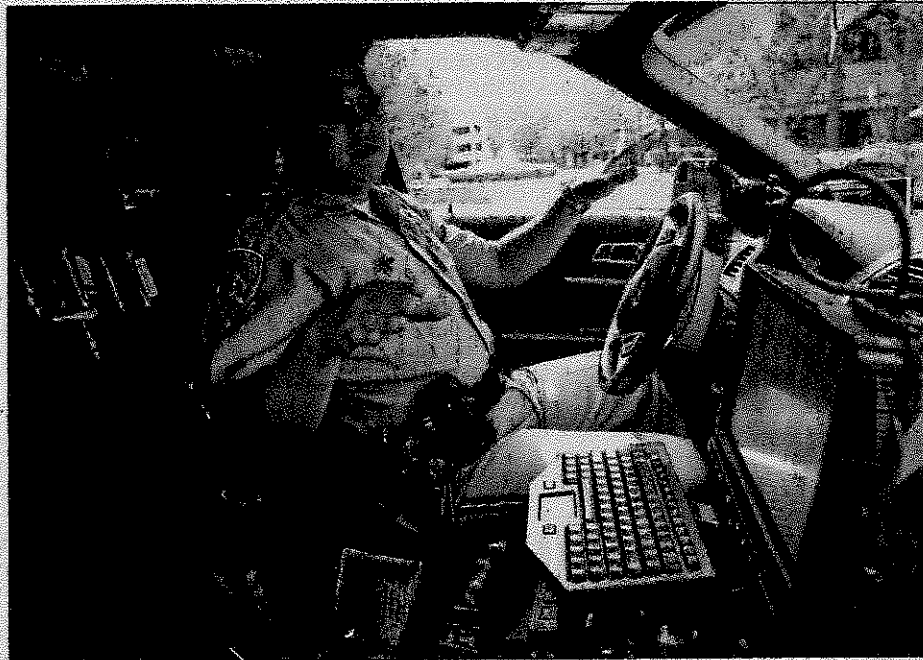
The policy, which was formalized late last month, contains the department's first explicit restrictions on such devices and comes a little more than a year after sheriff's Deputy Andrew Wood fatally struck cyclist Milton Olin Jr. on Mulholland Highway in Calabasas while typing on his in-car computer.

While stopping short of banning all in-car computer use, the new policy of the country's largest sheriff's agency requires that radios be used as "the primary tool of communication" while vehicles are moving and eliminates the use of in-car computers for administrative tasks.

"The significance is to reduce the danger to the public, predominantly, and the danger to our own deputies that are posed by distracted driving and distracting devices," said Sgt. Albert Schaubberger, corrective actions sergeant at the department's risk management bureau.

Employees cannot use their computer while driving a county vehicle unless the communication is urgent or necessary for officer safety and radio traffic prevents its timely transmission or unless it's to hit one button to send status updates such as "en-route" or "acknowledge," according to the new policy.

The in-car computer should be used as a last resort, such as when a deputy is facing an emergency and there's another serious inci-



STAFF FILE PHOTO

California Highway Patrol officer Leland Tang shows how the CHP uses heads-up technology to help officers keep their eyes on the road at all times.

dent already being broadcast on the radio channel, and not out of convenience since it's more distracting than a radio, Schaubberger said.

"If there's no other means to communicate and in case of emergency, then (the in-car computer) should be used because it's all you have left," he said.

In addition, personnel cannot use their mobile digital computers for administrative tasks, such as clearing calls, updating logs, typing, sending or reading administrative or nonurgent messages while driving, the policy states.

However, a union leader argues that the new policy leaves deputies who are trying to carry out their duties unduly vulnerable to discipline.

If department officials truly want deputies to not use their in-car computers, "they would put a lock out on the computer so that it wouldn't be operated while

it's moving," said Don "Jeff" Steck, president of the Association for the Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs. "I believe they want the deputy to continue to use the (mobile digital computer) but put the onus of any failures on the deputy as opposed to the system."

Steck said he's also concerned that the department does not have a sufficient number of dispatchers to handle the shift to heavier radio usage.

However, Schaubberger said radio personnel were involved in the 50-plus member internal committee that helped create the new distracted driving guidelines and have "assured us that (the ability to handle increased radio traffic) was not an issue," he said.

Sheriff's officials are also still exploring long-term proposals, such as shutting down many computer functions while the vehicle is in motion and using heads-up displays to keep deputies

eyes on the road more often, Schaubberger said.

The new policy's emphasis on radio and the one-button push is "likely to dramatically reduce the driving-while-typing problem that is everyone's nightmare," said Bryan Vila, a professor at Washington State University's Health Sciences Campus in Spokane who has studied the issue of distracted driving among law enforcement, via email.

He said the policy is "consistent with (the) best scientific evidence" and allows officers to lose no discretion in responding to emergencies, he said.

Eric Bruins, policy and planning director for the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition, was pleased by the move.

"Anything that encourages deputies to keep their eyes on the road helps make all of us safer, whether we're cycling, walking or driving," Bruins said via email.

L.A. Now

California: This just in

Three take formal step to run for L.A. County supervisor next year

By **JEAN MERL**

MARCH 9, 2015, 7:16 PM

Three political hopefuls have taken the first official step toward becoming a candidate in next year's races for Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, county election officials said Monday.

Before they can begin raising money for their campaigns, candidates must submit statements with the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's office. Saturday was the first day the so-called "501" statements could be filed.

Among the first wave of early filers was Steve Napolitano, a former Manhattan Beach councilman and a current aide to Supervisor Don Knabe, who must leave office next year because of term limits. Napolitano announced about a year ago that he would run to succeed his boss.

Also submitting a fundraising intention form was Mike Gin, a former mayor of Redondo Beach. Gin issued a statement earlier urging Rep. Janice Hahn (D-San Pedro) to stay in the U.S. House of Representatives instead of seeking Knabe's seat.

L.A. County Deputy Dist. Atty. Elan Carr also filed a fundraising form, county officials said. Unlike Napolitano and Gin, who are eyeing Knabe's 4th District seat, Carr is interested in running for the 5th District seat of Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, who also is being forced out by term limits next year. Last year, Carr lost a Westside-based congressional race to succeed retiring Rep. Henry A. Waxman (D-Beverly Hills) but demonstrated that he could raise campaign money.

All three of the earliest filers are Republicans, as are Knabe and Antonovich; the board of supervisors is officially a nonpartisan post.

In announcing her candidacy last month to succeed Knabe, Hahn became a top contender for a seat on the board where her father, the late Kenneth Hahn, served for four decades.

Antonovich's chief deputy, Kathryn Barger, a Republican, also has announced her candidacy and has her boss' endorsement.

Neither Barger nor Hahn had filed fundraising forms as of the close of business Monday, according to a registrar's spokeswoman.

Next year's primary election is June 7. If no candidate wins a majority of the vote for a particular district, then the top two finishers will compete in the November general election.

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Fesia Davenport Takes Driver's Seat in Office of Child Protection

By Jeremy Loudanback, March 4, 2015

The reforms enshrined in a Los Angeles County blue ribbon commission report may be one step closer to reality with the recent appointment of a new child protection leader for the county.

Last month, former Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Fesia Davenport was tapped to serve as interim director of the newly formed Office of Child Protection (OCP).

The creation of an Office of Child Protection was the most prominent recommendation to emerge from the Los Angeles County Blue Ribbon on Child Protection's (BRC) December 2013 interim recommendations and again in its final report in April. The Board of Supervisors approved the BRC's recommendations in June 2014, but little progress had been made to find a leader of the new agency until Davenport's appointment.

In a recent interview with the *Chronicle of Social Change*, Davenport outlined her priorities, shared her perspective on how the OCP can best implement the BRC's recommendations and explained how she hopes to encourage collaboration throughout the county.

"This job is a marathon, not a sprint," Davenport said about the new position. "In order to take action, you have to have sustained focus throughout the implementation process."



Since stepping into the position on February 2, Davenport and a small staff have focused on several issues tied to the BRC recommendations, including the pairing of public-health nurses with social workers, expanding the medical hubs system, examining policies related to the overuse of psychotropic medications with foster youth, expanding the county's existing database-sharing initiative (the Family and Child Index) and prevention initiatives.

But expectations are high for a new office that many hope will finally lead to the substantive reform promised by the blue ribbon commission. Questions remain about the future of the transition team that has worked to implement those reforms since last summer, and how the OCP director will manage the immense task of reorganizing county bureaucracy and partnerships.

According to Davenport, the key to ensuring that all agencies and departments in Los Angeles County are similarly focused on child safety is the creation of a countywide mission statement, something that was alluded to in a recent *Los Angeles Times* editorial. The new child-centered statement was not ready in time to meet the initial early February deadline, but having engaged with county departments Davenport hopes to finish the process well in advance of her April report to the Board of Supervisors.

"All the department heads are on board and we're having discussions about the nuanced distinction between safety and protection," she said, "and where does prevention come in? What does 'at risk' mean [to all county departments]?"

"We want to create a networked village and the hub of that village is this mission statement. We're going to define what child safety means and make sure that everyone is looking in the same direction."

While she has only been working in the child welfare field since 2013, Davenport brings more than a decade of experience from the county's Child Support Services Department, where she worked with current DCFS Director Philip Browning. Prior to that, she served in the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office Bureau of Family Support Operations.

Davenport expects that her varied programmatic and managerial experience in the county will come in handy as she navigates the mandate of the OCP to increase collaboration among departments.

"You need to be able to pull people together and you need to be a good listener," Davenport said. "People don't want to come a meeting where they will feel like they'll be talked at or planned at. They want to know that you've actually heard their concerns and the identification of their issues."

And creating a climate of cooperation will be essential to forging partnerships in a county that does not have a robust track record of collaboration.

"We have to have a certain amount of credibility when we walk in the door because you're dealing with department heads who are used to reporting directly to the board or to the CEO," Davenport said. "You have to either have a relationship with them or be able establish a relationship with them."

The BRC clearly identified the need for a central office, the OCP, to take a leadership role in coordinating services and encouraging child welfare-related collaboration across the county. The director position was dubbed by this publication as a "child safety czar", a term that was quickly adopted by other media outlets and which does not accurately reflect the responsibilities of the job, according to Davenport.

"I don't think czar is the right word," she said. "Operating in an authoritative manner might get you compliance, but it won't necessarily get you buy-in or ownership."

"What we're looking for is ownership—something that's sustainable. You want people to go back to their departments and push these ideas."

Jeremy Loudenback is a reporter with The Chronicle of Social Change.

TAGS: Blue Ribbon Commission, child protection, Child Safety Czar, Child Support Services Department, child welfare, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Fesia Davenport, foster youth, Jeremy Loudenback, Los Angeles County, Office of Child Protection (OCP), Philip Browning, Psychotropic Medications, public health nurses, Reforms, social workers, The Family and Child Index, youth

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VEHICLE/VESSEL TRANSFER AND REASSIGNMENT FORM

INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE — ALL SIGNATURES MUST BE IN INK — PHOTOCOPIES NOT ACCEPTED

This form is not the ownership certificate. It must accompany the titling document or Application for Duplicate Title. For Car Buyer's Bill of Rights, visit www.dmv.ca.gov.

ACQUISITION NUMBER (DISMANTLER ONLY)

SECTION 1 — VEHICLE/VESSEL DESCRIPTION

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	YEAR MODEL	MAKE	LICENSE PLATE/CF NO.	MOTORCYCLE ENGINE NUMBER
3VWSC29MSXM103808	1999	VOIK	4LHF252	

SECTION 2 — BILL OF SALE

I/We Ricardo Williams PRINT SELLER'S NAME(S) sell, transfer, and deliver the above vehicle/vessel to Akil Barnes PRINT BUYER'S NAME(S) on 3/12/15 for the amount of \$7000.00 (SELLING PRICE)

If this was a gift, indicate relationship: _____ (e.g., parents, spouse, friend, etc.) \$ _____ (GIFT VALUE)

SECTION 3 — ODOMETER DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Void if Mileage is Altered or Erased)

Federal and State Law requires that you state the mileage upon transfer of ownership. Failure to complete or providing a false statement may result in fines and/or imprisonment.

The odometer now reads 184,320 (no tenths) miles, and to the best of my knowledge reflects the **ACTUAL** mileage unless one of the following statements is checked.

WARNING—ODOMETER DISCREPANCY

☐ Odometer reading is NOT the actual mileage

☐ Mileage EXCEEDS the odometer mechanical limits

Explain odometer discrepancy: _____

SECTION 4 — BUYER AND SELLER (MUST hand print his or her name, date and sign this section.)

BUYER'S SECTION

I acknowledge the odometer reading and the facts of the transfer. I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

PRINT BUYER'S NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE	DL/ID OR DEALER/DISM #
AKIL BARNES	X		
PRINT BUYER'S NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE	DL/ID OR DEALER/DISM #
	X		
PRINT BUYER'S NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE	DL/ID OR DEALER/DISM #
	X		
BUYER'S MAILING ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
DAYTIME TELEPHONE NO.			

SELLER'S SECTION

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

PRINT SELLER'S NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE	DL/ID OR DEALER/DISM #
Wilson Hernandez	X	9/13/14	E1827246
PRINT SELLER'S NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE	DL/ID OR DEALER/DISM #
Ricardo Williams	X	3/12/15	
PRINT SELLER'S NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE	DL/ID OR DEALER/DISM #
	X		
SELLER'S MAILING ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
DAYTIME TELEPHONE NO.			

SECTION 5 — POWER OF ATTORNEY

I/We _____ PRINT NAME(S) appoint _____ PRINT NAME(S) as my attorney in fact, to complete all necessary documents, as needed, to transfer ownership as required by law.

SIGNATURE REQUIRED BY PERSON APPOINTING POWER OF ATTORNEY	DATE
X	
SIGNATURE REQUIRED BY PERSON APPOINTING POWER OF ATTORNEY	DATE
X	